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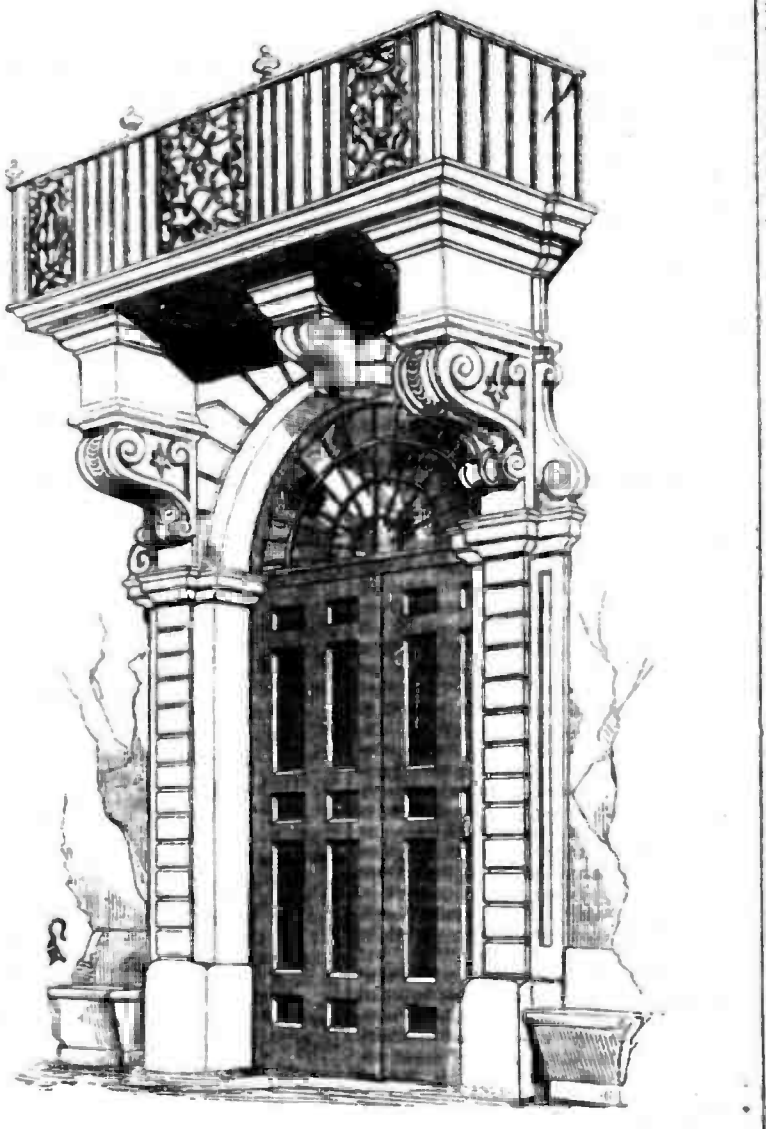

DOORWAY, VILLA BORGHESE, FRASCATI.

The Villa Taverna (now Borghese), at Frascati, was built in the 16th century, by Cardinal Taverna, from the designs of Girolamo Rainaldi. It was the favourite residence of Pope Paul V. The engraving represents the entrance doorway from the terrace.

PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF THE SCOPE OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

Our readers know that at the annual general meeting of the Institute, held in May last, a resolution was adopted, requesting the council to inquire into the present position and prospects of the Institute, to ascertain to what extent the views of its original founders have been carried out, viz., that of "Cultivating its many branches of science, and diffusing the knowledge of the principles of architecture with credit to its members, and with advantage to the noble art which they have the honour to profess;" also to inquire "if any and what changes in the bye-laws may be desirable, *to enlarge the scope of the Institute, and increase its usefulness.*"

The main object of the supporters of the resolution was to obtain the relaxation of a bye-law, which enumerates among the grounds for the expulsion of a fellow, his "having engaged since his election in the measurement, valuation, or estimation of any works undertaken by any building artificer, except such as are proposed to be executed, or have been executed, under the member's own designs or directions, except as referee or arbitrator."

On the 26th ult., a special meeting was held to consider the report of the council in reply to this. The report contained several recommendations, which were agreed to,* but on the question of relaxation, the council had come to the conclusion that the terms of the bye-law should not be altered, and further, they proposed as a special motion, an alteration in the form to be signed by associates, the effect of which was to make the restriction on this class of members more obvious and unmistakeable than it now is.

After a long and animated discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of the mover and seconder of the original resolution, that this proposition, together with the question of omitting the words of the bye-law quoted, should be referred back to the council for reconsideration; a vote tantamount of course to the expression of the affirmative on the part of the meeting. We have already expressed our opinion of the injustice and impolicy of the regulation in question, and sincerely hope that an alteration will now be made.

The Ant Plague.—A correspondent of the *Mining Journal* says,—Dust the floors and shelves with pounded quicklime; and if that should not completely succeed, "water" the floors with the ammoniacal liquor of gas-works, when the ammonia would be instantly disengaged by the quicklime, and this is destructive to insect life.

* One is, "That all members, whether associates or fellows, shall within twelve months after their election deliver an original paper to the council, on some subject connected with architecture, or make a donation to the library or collection."

USE OF GUTTA PERCHA IN REPAIRS.

It is a well-known and admitted fact, that most of our small modern dwelling-houses in or near the metropolis are built of inferior materials, with bad workmanship, yet readily find purchasers, or at least tenants. It requires, however, but a short tenancy to find out the miseries to be endured; woodwork shrinking, and thereby the rooms becoming filled with draughts, smoky chimneys, thin walls, weak floors, with the vibration so great that you are afraid to see the children run about, and the joints of the floor boards so wide apart, that the space between becomes the receptacle for dirt, dust, pins, needles, and halfpence, besides the impossibility of properly cleaning the floor, without injuring the ceiling beneath.

The greatest evil results, perhaps, from the timber employed in the joiner's work not being sufficiently seasoned, and hitherto the remedy to make good the defects occasioned by the shrinking, &c., as in the floor boards, has been to let in between the joints slips of wood, putty, &c.; but this cannot be depended upon, as in case of further shrinking it drops through, neither is it waterproof. I propose that gutta percha be used. Thus:—warm the gutta percha till it become glutinous, then with a heated iron or chisel point all along the joint, and it will be found that the adhesiveness of gutta percha is such, after two or three minutes, that the whole surface becomes as one board, the great merit being that there is no occasion to use any solution or cement to make the gutta percha unite to the woodwork, as is the case when applied to leather and other purposes; but there exists such an affinity between the two, that, for example, supposing a hole 6 inches square were cut in the flooring, with nothing underneath for support, and to make good the same a new piece were let in, well set all round in gutta percha, it will so unite with the boards, as to enable that portion to bear as great a weight as any other part. What has been said of making good the space between the floor boards, will equally apply to all joiner's work, as in the panels of doors, and a shake in them has hitherto been without any effectual remedy. Also to the skirting running round the rooms, which is often to be found leaving the floor boards, &c. &c.

The great feature gained is, that gutta percha not only fills up the space, but at the same time hardens and unites the whole.

F. Cross.

DESIGN AS APPLIED TO CALICO PRINTING.

A lecture on the conditions of design, as applied to calico printing, was delivered at the School of Design, Somerset House, on Friday, the 23rd of November, by Mr. George Wallis, formerly head master of the Manchester School, whose resignation, in 1846, was amongst the earliest symptoms of the change which has since taken place in that institution. The lecture was the first of a course of three which the Board of Trade have engaged Mr. Wallis to deliver,—the other two being on design as applied to silk weaving by the Jacquard loom, and on embroidery by hand and by machinery. In the lecture on calico printing, the technical conditions of design, as involved in the various modes of production, were pointed out, the nature of mordants, resists, and discharges, and their peculiar bearing on the artistic effect produced in printing, both as regards colour and light and shadow, explained; whilst form was shown to be dependent on the mechanical rather than on the chemical conditions of production. The various methods of block printing, machine printing by cylinder, and the metal types first used for calicoes, and now adapted to carpets, were rapidly gone over. The distinctive results, as seen in madder and steam prints, required a larger amount of explanation than one lecture enabled the lecturer to give, but the leading difference between the two methods, as exemplified in the mousseline de laines, as examples of steams, and the calicoes, known as "Hoyle's" prints, as specimens of madders, was clearly shown. The various methods of engraving the patterns on copper cylinders, and the conditions these methods imposed upon the designer, formed a valuable feature of the lecture, and

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